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1A English

Juliet’s incompetence as a youthful teenager results in a distant relationship between her repulsive father. The story portrays the young as inexperienced beings and the old being experienced, yet the two opposites always collide. Juliet and her father are distant, kept in a bond only through biological connections, as demonstrated through their faltering relationship, her subservience to him, and his impulsive behavior towards her.

At the beginning of act one scene two, Capulet and Paris discuss how Paris desires Juliet’s hand in marriage. Capulet then continues to talk about how Juliet is too young, and that it is not his decision to accept Paris’s offer, “My will to her consent is but a part” (1.2.17). This makes Lord Capulet seem like he respects Juliet, and that he doesn’t want to force Juliet into anything that she doesn’t want to do. Later in act 3 scene 5, Capulets loving character changes to very crude and insolent. “Hang thee young baggage, disobedient wretch!” (3.5.166) Capulets change in character shows how unbalanced Juliet and Capulets relationship is.

As an underrated woman in Elizabethan times, Juliet is bound to a life of subservience to her father. Although these were the circumstances of the era, it is by no means an excuse to conform. Consequently, their relationship verges on distant, rather than being a genuine family. Act one scene two opens with Paris being told that Lord Capulet’s “will to [Juliet’s] consent is but a part” (1.2.17). Despite this gracious statement, he demonstrates his authority by changing his mind and expecting Juliet to do likewise. Aware his previous decisions, he is convinced that she will express gratitude towards him so long as he acts for her sake, outraged and wondering, “Doth she not give us thanks?” (3.5.147). The opinionated Lord Capulet is unable to consider the perspective of her daughter, although he intends to work for her happiness. While he is a good father that exerts himself for the benefit of his daughter, his belief in her need to submit to his demands is what keeps the two alienated.

Shakespeare showed Lord Capulet as a vulgar and fun-loving man. Through the text, Lord Capulet and Juliet’s interaction was shown as a distant yet still a somewhat caring relationship between one another. It was in 3.5, when Shakespeare showed that, like many other party-lovers, Lord Capulet could be quite aggressive when his true emotions arise. His instability when angered proved to trigger an impulsive behavior when he had not gotten his way. Lord Capulet was absolutely shocked at Juliet’s refusal to marry Paris, and this had led to the decision of disowning his own daughter in the short time span of a minute or two. This impulsiveness contradicts those themes that Shakespeare had showed the audience in the beginning of his play. For he now shows that anyone can be impulsive and take drastic actions when a scorching passion arrives; no matter what age a person is.

Lord Capulet and Juliet have a seemingly close relationship, but they are estranged due to their inability to compromise and Capulet’s need for supremacy. The oppositions of young and old are embodied by their lack of affection, because the clash of viewpoints is what differentiates the two. A true family does not divide themselves as a result of social norms, although it is deemed proper for the older members of the family. Juliet is unable to appreciate her father’s acts of supposed kindness due to his lack of open-mindedness. The two are kept distant because of their clashing beliefs, however they still bound in a relationship as a result of their biological link.